



March 3, 2021

Testimony of Dennis Cakert, on behalf of National Hydropower Association, regarding:

1. Governor's Bill No. 882 (An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability)
2. Raised Bill No. 952 (An Act Concerning Certain Solar Energy Projects)
3. Raised Bill No. 6523 (An Act Concerning Virtual Net Metering Credits for Manufacturer's in Distressed Communities).

National Hydropower Association (NHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments regarding the need for greater valuation of hydropower in Connecticut.

NHA is a non-profit trade association dedicated to promoting hydropower as a renewable, zero-carbon, reliable energy resource that can help states achieve emissions reductions at least cost to consumers. NHA represents more than 68,000 workers at more than 245 organizations nationwide, several of which are located or do business in Connecticut.

1. Environmental Conservation Groups and the Hydropower Industry Agree – Hydropower is an Important Part of Addressing Climate Change

A multi-year dialogue between major environmental conservation groups and the hydropower industry last year concluded that hydropower is an important renewable energy resource, both in terms of its baseload renewable generation and its flexibility to integrate higher levels of wind and solar (see appendix).¹ At the same time, the hydropower industry is committed to restoring healthy rivers and supporting the biodiversity and recreational opportunities provided by our nation's waterways.

2. Hydropower, Wind, Solar, and Storage Form the Backbone of a Renewable and Reliable Electric Grid

Within the next decade, more than half of the electricity generated in the United States can come from hydropower, wind, solar, and energy storage.² The different clean energy industries have agreed to build a more resilient, efficient, sustainable and affordable grid, reduce carbon emissions, and increase competition through fair market rules.

3. Greater Valuation of Hydropower Helps Prevent Premature Retirement of Carbon-free Energy

License surrender applications for hydropower projects have increased in recent years. Between 2010 and 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission received 39 license surrender applications for hydropower projects. Half of these projects came from the northeast and 32 of the 39 applications cited economic factors as the main cause of the surrenders.

¹ U.S. Environmental Community and Hydropower Industry Issue Joint Statement of Collaboration, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment (October 2020). Available [here](#).

² U.S. Renewable and Clean Energy Industries Set Sights on Market Majority (June 2020). Available [here](#).



Conclusion:

Hydropower is more than merely cement in the ground; it is a vibrant industry that provides zero-carbon electricity to an estimated 30 million Americans. Increased valuation is essential to ensure ongoing maintenance and improvements are made to these zero-carbon resources, both related to power generation and environmental and recreational improvements.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written comments.

Sincerely,

Dennis Cakert
Senior Manager of Regulatory Affairs and State Policy
National Hydropower Association
601 New Jersey Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Email: Dennis@hydro.org